

The Florida House of Representatives

Chris Sprowls Speaker

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

February 12, 2021

Media Contacts:

Florida House Office of Public Information media@myfloridahouse.gov (850) 717-5780

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Office of Communications media@deo.myflorida.com (850) 245-7110

Speaker Chris Sprowls, DeSantis Administration Announce Intent to Reform Florida's Workforce System

Tuesday House Committee Meeting to Review U.S. Department of Labor Audit Findings on Workforce Programs

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (February 12, 2021) — Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives Chris Sprowls, R-Palm Harbor, and Executive Director of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) Dane Eagle today announced they will work together to reform the state's workforce system to foster economic mobility for those who need it most.

Upon review of an audit from the U.S. Department of Labor outlining failures of the workforce programs, Speaker Sprowls has directed House Education & Employment Chairman Chris Latvala to investigate and propose solutions.

"This audit confirms what we already knew: Federal and local workforce boards and programs lack quality customer service for our residents looking for one place to go for work, training or benefits," said Florida House Speaker Chris Sprowls. "But where we face challenges, we find opportunity. To this end, I have called on the Education & Employment Committee to review the Department of Labor's audit findings next week and offer ways to transform our statewide workforce system to help get people meaningful results – training and access to in-demand jobs, upward mobility, and economic freedom."

"The breadth of findings recently issued by the U.S. Department of Labor is concerning, and Governor DeSantis has asked that I work with the Legislature to pursue necessary reforms," said Florida DEO

February 12, 2021 Page 2

Executive Director Eagle. "Floridians are relying on the workforce system now more than ever, and they deserve a transparent and accountable system that provides quality career opportunities. The department is committed to this effort."

The recently released audit from the U.S. Department of Labor can be found here.

On Tuesday, Feb. 16, at 4 p.m., the House Education & Employment Committee will hear from DEO leadership on the oversight and accountability of Florida's workforce systems. CareerSource and representatives from local workforce boards will present and take questions, as well. That meeting may be viewed live at www.thefloridachannel.org.

###